

for Gore further, under pressure from the committee, said that Hamon had suggested that Vice President Sherman was also interested in the contracts. Representative Cresser took the stand after Senator Gore and asked if he had ever met Hamon. He replied: "Yes, I met him by appointment at his home at the Occidental Hotel in Washington. He invited me there, saying he wanted to talk over a little matter."

"At that time efforts were being made to have the President approve of the McMurtry contracts. I already had some on record as being opposed to their approval. Well, when I got to the hotel and was sitting in a room with Hamon he began to urge me to withdraw my opposition. He suggested I might have an interest in the contracts."

Representative Miller—"Were any figures mentioned?" Did he say how much interest you might have?"

Brief Offer Shut Off.

Mr. Cresser—"No, I did not let it go as far as that. I made my language pretty emphatic that I was opposed to the contracts and would not be influenced."

Representative Stephens—"You mean to say that you regarded the offer of such a character as to arouse your indignation?"

Mr. Cresser—"Yes, that's it. I regarded it as an offer to influence my attitude toward the contracts. It was even suggested that I call together all the officials I could and defend the measure, opposing the approval of the bills."

Representative Miller—"What kind of rooms did Mr. Hamon and Mr. McMurtry have?"

Mr. Cresser—"Oh, three or four front rooms. Representative McGuire of Oklahoma occupied part of the Hamon and McMurtry suite and Hamon later at different times. When he heard I was coming to testify before this committee he urged me not to. He expressed the hope that I would make no statement before this committee."

Mr. Cresser said it was last June 16 when he was invited to meet Hamon at the Occidental.

One of the striking parts of the testimony of Senator Gore was that the offer of Hamon went so far as to promise that the bribe money would not be paid over in the form of a check or marked money, but in "clean, hard cash."

Senator Gore began by explaining what had led up to his opposition to the McMurtry contracts. As far back as 1905, he wrote to Senator La Follette calling his attention to the enormous value of the coal and asphalt lands owned by the Indians.

The Geological Survey had estimated their value at \$10,000,000. In 1905, McMurtry had obtained contracts with the tribes for the sale of the land on a 10 per cent basis. In 1908, President Roosevelt disapproved of these. The same year, McMurtry obtained contracts individually with 10,000 Indians, and this led Senator Gore to introduce a resolution in Congress that all Indian contracts must be approved by Congress before they became valid.

Then Senator Gore recounted how McMurtry had visited his office, how he had told McMurtry he thought 10 per cent on land valued at \$10,000,000 was too high, and also 10 per cent on \$20,000,000, which he was informed a New York syndicate was willing to pay, he said he believed was too high.

In the course of his testimony, Senator Gore said:

Former Senator Named.

"It was notable how active were the McMurtry interests. When I called on Secretary of the Interior Ballinger to protest against the contracts I was told not to talk so loud, as former Senator Long of Kansas was present, and he was interested in the contracts."

"I had introduced in the Senate a resolution requiring that all contracts made with Indians should be approved by Congress before they became valid. On May 5 last the committee having jurisdiction of the matter instructed Senator Hughes of Colorado to report favorably."

The very next day, Jake Hamon, of Lawton, Okla., came to my office and said he had a telegram to visit me and he was interested in the McMurtry contracts.

"Then he mentioned the name of an official very high up in the Government. And when I expressed astonishment Hamon said: 'Well, you know there is a lot of money in this thing. If you say the word I will arrange to give you the \$50,000. There will be no checks in this deal and no marked money. It will be all new, clean money.'

"Hamon said: 'There's a lot of money tied up in this deal and a big fee for somebody.'

Asked Withdrawal of Bill.

"He then explained he wanted me to withdraw my bill or at least have it reported unfavorably. It seems he did not know it had already been reported favorably. When I told him he wanted

## SENATOR GORE'S CHARGES

That Jacob L. Hamon (former Republican National Committeeman) offered him a bribe of first \$25,000, then \$50,000, to withdraw his opposition to the McMurtry Indian contracts, by which Indians were to dispose of lands of great value and interested persons were to profit about \$3,000,000 in fees.

That Hamon told him that Senator Curtis of Kansas and Representative McGuire of Oklahoma were interested in the contracts.

That Hamon declared that Vice President Sherman was also interested in the deal.

### ANSWERS OF ACCUSED

VICE PRESIDENT SHERMAN—The story that comes to me about the charges made by Senator Gore at Muskogee today is absolutely without the slightest shadow of foundation.

SENATOR CURTIS—I am not and have not been interested in them (the Indian contracts), directly or indirectly.

J. F. McMURRAY—Bribery never entered my mind, no one has ever spoken to me, nor have I ever approached any one dishonestly.

REPRESENTATIVE MCGUIRE—No man who is honest will say that I have now or ever have had any interest in any Indian contracts with McMurtry or anybody else.

JACOB HAMON—Nothing to say at this time.

me to see Senator Hughes and agree not to press the measure."

"There will be \$50,000 in it for you—or perhaps \$50,000, if you want it," said Hamon. He suggested that I call together the entire Oklahoma delegation in Congress and have them remove all opposition to the contracts."

"In reply to all these offers I told him that \$25,000 or \$50,000 was all the same to me in a matter of that sort and that I would have nothing to do with Hamon."

"Hamon then mentioned a certain Senator and said he was interested in the contracts."

"What was the name of the Senator?" asked Chairman Burke.

"I don't want to say, but it was the same Senator who had questioned me a short time before concerning the contracts."

"On being urged by the committee to tell all he knew, Senator Gore said: 'Well, I might as well tell you it was Vice President Sherman. He was interested in the contracts. While I am about it I might as well say that he (Hamon) also mentioned Representative McGuire as being interested in the contracts. Then he mentioned the name of a man higher up in the Government. I was appalled when I heard that name.'

"Well," replied Hamon, "this is lots of money, you see."

Senator Gore Reluctant.

"What was the name of that man higher up?" asked Chairman Burke.

"Well," replied Senator Gore, "I don't like to say. Indeed, I could not repeat it without a great deal of reluctance."

Mr. Burke—"The committee is here to get the facts, and we must have all this conversation."

Mr. Gore—"He suggested that Vice President Sherman was interested in the contracts."

Then, H. Owen, counsel for Mr. Gore—in that connection spoke of an article appearing in a Kansas City newspaper that two gentlemen had called on the President. I wish you would say who was mentioned in the article."

Mr. Gore—"In the newspaper of April 4 Vice President Sherman and Senator Curtis were named as having called to discuss the segregated coal and asphalt lands. I think before the Senate met the next day the information came to me."

Name Withheld.

Cross-examined, Senator Gore said he thought Hamon truthful, but thought "he would deviate a little on occasions."

Senator Gore mentioned a Department of Justice employee as "interested" in the contracts, but refused to give his name, saying it was told him in confidence. He thought President Taft had made it plain he opposed the contracts.

D. F. Gore, brother of Senator Gore, said he was in his brother's private office at noon May 6, when Hamon appeared, that he did not take part in the conversation, but went in and out, and that it lasted thirty or forty minutes. On leaving, Hamon said to D. F. Gore, according to the latter's testimony:

"Well, Dick, the Senator is getting awfully hot on his friends. I want to make a lot of money, Dick, and I don't care how I make it."

Later, when Hamon left, Senator Gore told D. F. Gore, of the bribe offer.

D. F. Gore said McMurtry had invited him to a frog-leg banquet. He described the banquet as a "stagnant, stinky, stinky, stinky" affair, said he was in and out of the

Senator's room when Hamon was present. He also was invited to the frog-leg banquet but declined.

BRIBE CHARGE MADE ON SENATE FLOOR

The famous "McMurtry contracts," responsible for Senator Gore's sensational charges of attempted bribery, involve the proposed sale of 45,000 acres of rich mineral lands belonging to the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians.

J. F. McMurray and his associates had made contracts with numerous individual Indians by which the attorneys were to receive 10 per cent of the proceeds of the land sales.

Senator Gore opposed the McMurtry contracts and introduced a measure in the Senate providing that all contracts with Indians must be confirmed by Congress. It was this measure that caused the trouble.

The possible "attorney's fees" under the McMurtry contracts are variously estimated from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000. It is understood that there is a standing offer of \$20,000,000 for the land, while the Geological Survey has estimated its value at \$10,000,000.

McMurray's agents, it is charged, hastened to Washington to oppose the Gore measure. According to Gore the bribe was offered to him in an effort to induce him to withdraw it.

Gore Measure Scored.

The Gore measure was favorably reported and well on its way toward passage. During the absence of Gore from the Senate on June 24, 1916, it came up in the course of routine business and its enemies had practically killed it when Gore rushed into the chamber.

Realizing that only the most extreme measures could save the bill at that stage of the session Gore made his sensational speech in which he charged the attempted bribery, and that various members of Congress were interested in the deal.

On the last night of the session, just before final adjournment, special committees were appointed by both the House and the Senate, to investigate the matter.

Gore had succeeded in having the bill reamended and adopted in such shape as to be satisfactory to him.

Under the previous law it was provided:

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

ed that all contracts with Indian tribes required the approval of the President. and President Roosevelt in 1908 refused to "O. K." tribal contracts made by McMurtry. The McAlester attorney then proceeded to obtain individual contracts, which led Gore to introduce his bill.

GORE LETTERS READ BY SENATOR HUGHES

DENVER, Colo., Aug. 5.—United States Senator Charles J. Hughes, Jr., who moved in the Senate the appointment of a committee to investigate Senator Gore's charges of attempted bribery, declared today that he had never before attached any importance to these charges, and had never before heard the name of Vice President Sherman mentioned in connection with them.

On account of Gore's blindness, Hughes said, he read all the Oklahoma Senator's letters received in connection with the bill. He introduced a measure designed to prevent future frauds in Indian lands. He said Gore told him the persons interested in the McMurtry deal offered him \$25,000 and then \$50,000, if he could stop a favorable report in the Senate on the bill designed to prevent undue fees being paid by the Indians. Hughes said he considered this bill a strong one and that he made a favorable report on it to the Senate.

SENATOR BELIEVES CHARGES WILL STICK

MUSKOGEE, Okla., Aug. 5.—"I am well pleased with the first day's progress of the charges launched by me in the closing of the last legislature," says Senator Gore. "I think I have made my charges stick that I was offered \$50,000 to withdraw my opposition to the McMurtry contracts with individual members of the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of Indians, and think the committee will sustain me."

"I regret exceedingly that I was forced to repeat the statement made to me that Vice President Sherman, Senator Curtis, of Kansas, and Representative McGuire, of Oklahoma, were interested in the McMurtry contracts."

"I do not see how the committee can do otherwise than sustain my charges of attempted bribery, especially since Representative Cresser has substantiated my statements that Jake L. Hamon, of Lawton, had been busy on the contracts and had offered him an interest in them. I will summon only two or three more witnesses."

ROOSEVELT EVADES QUESTIONS ON GORE

NEW YORK, Aug. 5.—"I have nothing to say about Mr. Sherman," said Theodore Roosevelt today at the Outlook office.

Asked for an opinion on the general charges made at Muskogee by Senator Gore, Mr. Roosevelt merely shook his head and dodged all attempts to get a statement on the case involving the Vice President.

Colonel Roosevelt also refused to discuss direct nominations or the New York governorship after both subjects had been taken up with him by callers.

C. H. Betts, of Lyons, a member of the

\$1.25 Baltimore and Return, Baltimore and Ohio R. R. Every Saturday and Sunday. All trains both ways, both days, except Royal Limited.—Adv.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

the Republican State committee, called on the ex-President to argue against the direct primary system advocated by Governor Hughes. Assemblyman Green of Kings, joint sponsor with Senator Hiram of the direct nominations bill, took the opposite position, urging W. C. Wetmore, of Brooklyn as gubernatorial material. Mr. Roosevelt only smiled, according to Youngs.

The governorship came up when United States Attorney W. J. Youngs, of the Long Island district, formerly Mr. Roosevelt's secretary, urged W. C. Wetmore, of Brooklyn as gubernatorial material. Mr. Roosevelt only smiled, according to Youngs.

CURTISS IS EAGER TO REFUTE CHARGES

TOPEKA, Kan., Aug. 5.—United States Senator Charles Curtis of Kansas, today reiterated his willingness to appear before the Congressional committee at Muskogee, Okla., and refute the allegations made yesterday by Senator Gore, who accused him of being interested in the \$3,000,000 Indian land deals.

Senator Curtis declared that his legislative record showed that he had consistently opposed attempts to wring exorbitant counsel fees from the Indian land owners.

SHERMAN MAY OFFER TO TAKE THE STAND

UTICA, N. Y., Aug. 5.—Friends of Vice President Sherman here will urge him upon his return from the Adirondacks to take the stand before the Congressional investigating committee, which is considering the Gore attempted bribery charge.

Bill the mention of the Vice President's name in connection with the matter is looked upon here by his friends and business associates as unpleasant. They declare there is nothing to substantiate him. Whether he will offer to take the stand is a matter of conjecture.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday at 6 P. M.

Close Daily at 5 P. M. CREDIT Saturday